

The question of catching cold can only be raised in the second case. There was no tetanus in the town in 1882 or 1886, and the ward during that interval underwent no rigorous disinfection. In none of the cases could the origin of the tetanus be traced to any horse. The long interval separating the last from the preceding cases may suggest coincidence rather than relation of cause to effect.

M. Larger notes that contagion with a long interval crops up three times among the facts he has gathered. Ten years had elapsed between two cases of tetanus occurring amongst the horses of one stable at Achères; two years between the time the last horse was affected with it and the time a woman contracted it after being injured before the stable in question; lastly, eleven years between the cases of two workmen at Barentin who occupied the same room.

In the domain of veterinary surgery mention should be made of M. Cagnat of St. Denis, who after twenty-five years of practice as a veterinary surgeon and never seeing a case of tetanus, meets with six cases in six months, occurring in six horses who had been operated upon with the same ecraseur, none occurring amongst the animals operated upon with other instruments. This ecraseur became harmless after it had been dipped in boiling oil.—*Revue de Chirurgie*, January, 1887, p. 69.

#### NERVOUS AND VASCULAR SYSTEMS.

**I. Case of Stretching Combined with Resection of the Spinal Accessory in the Treatment of Spasmodic Torticolis.** By M. SCHWARTZ (Paris). A woman, aet. 26, was affected with violent contractions of the muscles of the neck, which began by being intermittent and afterwards became permanent. The head was bent over to the left side. M. Schwartz stretched the nerve, using a force equal to two kilogs, then resected a piece two centimetres long. The patient was relieved, but not cured.

M. Tillaux, who read the report to the Surgical Society, says he has made experiments on dead bodies in the stretching of the spinal accessory nerve with a view to seeing whether during this operation any

disturbance took place in the bulb of the nerve. He believed this disturbance of the bulb to be a reality although in life stretching the nerve gave rise to no trouble of a bulbous origin. So he hesitates about doing this operation, and in M. Schwartz' case would only have performed the resection.—*Progrès Médical*, Nov. 20, 1886.

L. MARK (London).

**II. The State of the Femoral Artery after Ligature for Popliteal Aneurism.** By MR. SAVORY (London). The paper consisted of an analysis of twenty-six cases in the museums of the London hospitals in which the femoral artery had been tied in Scarpa's triangle for the cure of popliteal aneurism. Of these specimens seventeen were complete. Of these seventeen cases, the artery was pervious throughout in thirteen, and partially closed in four. In none was the artery pervious throughout. Of the seventeen specimens thirteen were cured. In these the artery was pervious in over eleven, and partially closed in four. In two the operation had failed to cure, and the artery remained pervious in both. Mr. Savory gave details of cases in his own practice. In one case a man aged 37, a hawker, with popliteal aneurism, the pulsation in which could be controlled by pressure on the femoral, there was a three months' history. In February the artery was tied in Scarpa's triangle. A slight return of pulsation took place on the third day. One year after the aneurism had returned with slight pulsation, and a bigger tumour. It was treated with rest and elastic bandages without much effect, for six months later it was in the same condition. The patient was then anaesthetized, and the leg bandaged with Esmarch's bandage; the popliteal artery was then tied in its first portion. This operation was perfectly successful. In another case the femoral artery was first ligatured in Scarpa's triangle, next in Hunter's canal, and finally a third time in the upper part of the popliteal space. The question of ligaturing the popliteal artery for popliteal aneurism ought to be reconsidered. Mr. Savory was disposed to think that this method would prove most useful, and he said he should generally prefer to adopt it in the future. Mr. John Wood said that the practice would be practically a return to Anel's method,